Message Text

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R 021202Z AUG 78 FM AMEMBASSY MADRID TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5597 INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, BL, PEPR, US, SP

SUBJECT: PSOE LEADER ON US POSTURE TOWARD BOLIVIAN

ELECTIONS

1. IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED AUGUST 2 IN MADRID'S "EL PAIS," PSOE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER GUILLERMO GALEOTE, WHO REPRESENTED THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL AS AN OBSERVER DURING THE RECENT BOLIVIAN ELECTIONS, MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT CONCERNING THE POSITION OF THE US TOWARD THOSE ELECTIONS:

-- QUESTION: WHAT ROLE DID THE US EMBASSY PLAY?

--ANSWER: "I MET WITH THE (AMERICAN) AMBASSADOR A NUMBER OF TIMES AND THE IMPRESSION HE GAVE ME WAS THAT HE WAS DISPOSED TO FAVOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS, COINCIDING WITH THE PRESENT POSITION OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT."

2. GALEOTE EXPRESSED SIMILAR SENTIMENTS PRIVATELY TO EMBOFF, ADDING THAT HE FOUND HIS "THREE HOUR EXCHANGE" WITH THE AMBASSADOR QUITE PRODUCTIVE. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT IN HIS VIEW "PEREDA WILL REMAIN IN POWER AS LONG AS THE US WILL TOLERATE HIM, AND NO LONGER," A CONCLUSION THAT DERIVED FROM GALEOTE'S CONVICTION THAT THE US HAS SUFFICIENT ECONOMIC LEVERAGE IN BOLIVIA TO FORCE THE GOVT TO CONVOKE NEW ELECTIONS.

3. IN VIEW OF CONTINUING PSOE INTEREST IN THE BOLIVIAN

SITUATION, WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING KEPT ON DISTRIBU-
TION FOR REPORTING OF SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL EVENTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: ELECTIONS Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MADRID08884
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: X1 Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D780317-1281

Format: TEL

From: MADRID

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808108/aaaadmht.tel

Line Count: 65 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: eb0a8b58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 07 jul 2005 **Review Event:** Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1562778 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: PSOE LEADER ON US POSTURE TOWARD BOLIVIAN ELECTIONS

TAGS: PINT, PEPR, BL, US, SP

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/eb0a8b58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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